

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA JUNE 2008



Session Records Review

REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS

The Clerks of Session within our Presbytery review each other's Session minutes annually. So far this year, a total of 49 records have been read. The last scheduled meeting for the review of 2007 Session Records will be Saturday, June 7th at the Shelby Presbyterian Church. Clerks who have not submitted their 2007 Records should make plans to attend on June 7th.

Along with bringing your 2007 Session Records, you will need to bring a copy of the 2007-2009 *Book of Order*.

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with refreshments, includes lunch, and should conclude by 2:00 p.m. All Clerks should attend, and any Assistant Clerks are welcome. **Call** the Presbytery office with the number of attendee(s). Directions can be obtained by going to www.mapquest.com and keying in your beginning and ending location.



THE PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE CENTER AT MONTREAT

Grand Opening - Saturday, May 24, 2008

The Presbyterian Heritage Center (PHC) at Montreat will hold its Grand Opening on Memorial Weekend — at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 24, 2008. Please make plans to attend this historic event! There will be a Scottish piper, a choir from the Korea Presbyterian Church of Asheville and more!

Saturday evening, there will be a Ceilidh and Appalachian music program open free to the Montreat community and anyone else, cosponsored by the Presbyterian Heritage Center and the Montreat Scottish Society. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a Ceilidh and Barn Dance, featuring Glenn Bannerman and the Stoney Creek Boys.

We offer interactive computer kiosks, an innovative museum and research facility (onsite and online) presenting Presbyterian history and Reformed heritage, the church's tradition of worldwide mission, and the interesting role of Montreat. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.phcmontreat.org/>

PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY ~ May 25, 2008

Presbyterian Heritage Sunday has been set aside by the General Assembly of the PC(USA) as an annual day to celebrate, reflect upon, and learn more about the long and rich history of the Presbyterian movement in America. It falls on the Sunday closest to May 21, the date of the opening of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789.



The Presbyterian Historical Society supports Heritage Sunday by preparing study and worship suggestions for distribution to congregations throughout the United States. The 2008 theme is *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* For additional information, visit the Presbyterian Historical Society web site at: <http://www.history.pcusa.org/cong/heritage.html>. For tips for celebrating Presbyterian Heritage Sunday, visit <http://www.pcusa.org/oga/perspectives/may05/heritage.pdf>.



YOUTH COUNCIL APPLICATION ~ Due by May 30, 2008

The Youth Council can help strengthen many gifts that God has given you. Among a few of these are: leadership skills, communication skills and strengthening your faith. A few attributes that will help you to flourish while on the Youth Council are: willingness and availability, good listener, creativity, flexibility, open-mindedness, individuality, and a sense of humor. There are three teams that make up the Youth Council. They are recreation, worship and music. So, what are you waiting for? APPLY TODAY! Download your application from the Presbytery website:
http://www.presbyterywnc.org/content/youth_council/Youth_Council_Application.pdf

MISSION TRIP:



Pray for the following team:

May 8-19 and May 20-June 3: Two teams to Malawi to work at Nkhoma Hospital. Look for prayer flyer at www.presbyterywnc.org. Teresa Locke, Tom Kilgore, and Pastor Michael Bailey, leaders. Pray also for Barbara Nagy, Jodi McGill and Reynier ter Haar, as they work on arrangements in Malawi.



218th GENERAL ASSEMBLY ~ JUNE 21-28, 2008

San Jose, California

The 2008 theme is "Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). Many important issues will be considered by commissioners and advisory delegates as they seek to discern and to represent the will of Christ for the PC(USA). Commissioners attending from the Presbytery will be: Rev. Maggie Lauterer, Rev. Laura Long, Rev. Luke Harkey, Elders J.D. Waldrop, Kathy Parse, and Lois Camp. The youth advisory delegate will be Elizabeth Hill.



2008 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference

Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice - Confronting Poverty

July 15-19, 2008, Orange, California

Today globalization creates new forms of poverty with more extreme disparities between the rich and the poor. The annual income of the richest 1 percent is equal to that of the poorest 57 percent, and 24,000 people die each day from poverty and malnutrition. The majority of those in poverty are women and children. The number of people living in absolute poverty on less than one dollar per day continues to increase (Accra Confession.

World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 2004). In 2006, as many as 36.5 million people in

the United States lived in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau).

Jesus calls us to be aware of the systems that impoverish people and, through the parable of the mustard seed, teaches us of the power of small acts of peaceful resistance to crack those systems open.

To learn more about the conference visit: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm>.

To download a conference brochure: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008/brochure.pdf>

To download a registration form: <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008/register.pdf>



BRAAKSMA’S, MISSIONARIES TO SUDAN, VISIT PWNC IN JULY

Del and Debbie Braaksma, will be in WNC July 24-29, speaking in various parts of the Presbytery and completing their time with us at the Presbytery meeting on July 29. Del works with the "goat project" supported by Nickel a Meal funds and Debbie is involved with the process of reconciliation among Southern Sudanese. There will be three or four other opportunities to hear these wonderful people. Their schedule should be on the web site and e-mailed to churches next month. Read about them at <http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/braaksmad.htm>.

PRESBYTERY SEVENTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

**Third Street Presbyterian Church
605 North Highland Street, Gastonia, NC**



Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. along with elder orientation and a time for prayer. The meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. Del and Debbie Braaksma, Missionaries to Sudan, will be speaking at the Presbytery Meeting about his works with the “goat project.” Mark your calendar now.



RETIREES RECEPTION ~ July 30, 2008

A reception for retired professionals, who are members of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, will be held on Wednesday, July 30, at 3:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. Helen Locklear, BOP representative, will be speaking at the reception and available to talk and answer any questions you may have.



LET’S CELEBRATE! ~ “Side-by-Side” - August 9, 2008

(“What are you looking?...Come and see.” John 1:38a and 39a)

First Presbyterian Church, Morganton

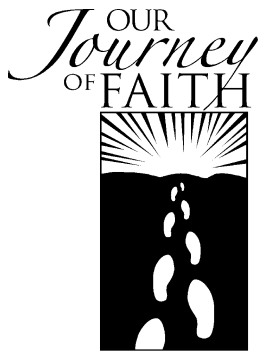
An all-day event filled with worship, workshops and fellowship for youth and adults. J. Herbert Nelson will lead worship and two workshops. The theme for this year will be: *Evangelism, Revitalization and Transformation*. Mark your calendar and watch for the brochure the first of June, which will include a full list of workshops and registration information.



SENIOR HIGH RALLY - September 28, 2008

Montreat, NC

Adrian McMullen, Associate for Youth, PCUSA, will join our youth at Montreat as Rally Leader. Senior High Youth are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. The rally is FREE.



JOURNEY OF FAITH (formerly *Journey to Bethlehem*)

September 29-30, 2008

Montreat Conference Center

This annual event, sponsored by the Presbytery's Care of Church Professionals Committee, invites all Ministers, Commissioned Lay Pastors, Directors of Christian Education, and Musicians to a time of REFLECTION, RENEWAL, and FELLOWSHIP on September 29-30, 2008, in Assembly Inn's Convocation Hall.



MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT - November 21-23, 2008

Camp Grier, Old Fort

The Middle School Retreat will be November 21-23, 2008 at Camp Grier. Retreat leader will be Robert Alexander plus youth enablers. Watch your email and the youth page of the Presbytery website for more information. You will want to register early.



CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church celebrated their 100th Anniversary during May.

Newton Presbyterian Church will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary in June.

New Hope Presbyterian Church in Asheville will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary in June.